

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02  
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P 191041Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0670  
USICA WASHDC  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS MOSCOW 08190

STATE FOR EUR/SOV

USICA FOR EU, VOA

LENINGRAD FOR P&C

MUNICH FOR VOA EUROPEAN BUREAU

PARIS FOR USICA DIRECTOR REINHARDT

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PROP, UR  
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ATTACK ON VOA

1. APRIL 14 EDITION OF "MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS" CARRIES  
PIECE BY NOVOSTI "POLITICAL OBSERVER" V. SIMONOV ENTITLED  
"THE FALSE 'VOICE OF AMERICA'". ARTICLE REPRESENTS ONE OF  
THE MOST DIRECT CRITICISMS OF VOA WE HAVE SEEN IN RECENT  
MONTHS IN THE SOVIET PRESS (MOST SWIPES AT VOA HAVE COME -  
WITHIN CONTEXT OF LARGER TREATMENTS OF USIA/ICA REORGANIZA-  
TION OR RFE/RL).

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2. SIMONOV NOTES RECENT DEBATE OVER WHETHER OR NOT TO  
ACCORD VOA "INDEPENDENCE" AND STATUS AS AUTONOMOUS  
ORGANIZATION OUTSIDE DIRECT ICA/STATE DEPARTMENT CONTROL.  
WITHOUT MENTIONING IT BY NAME, SIMONOV REFERS TO REPORTS  
OF THE RECENT STUDY OF VOA OPERATIONS BY CHALMERS ROBERTS  
GROUP. "IN SHORT," HE QUIPS, "EVERYTHING WILL BE DONE SO

THAT THE JOURNALISTS OF THE VOICE OF AMERICA WILL NO LONGER BE MISTAKEN FOR AMERICAN DIPLOMATS," AND HE OBSERVES THAT VOA'S OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS MAY HAVE TO TRADE IN THEIR OFFICIAL PASSPORTS FOR TOURIST ONES AND BE FORBIDDEN TO WORK OUT OF U.S. EMBASSIES. HE LIKENS SUCH IDEAS OF INDEPENDENCE TO "THE STATUS OF GOGOL'S 'NOSE', WHICH WALKED ABOUT ON ITS OWN, INDEPENDENT OF ITS OWNER."

3. NEITHER VOA NOR THE U.S. PROOAGANDA EFFORT IN GENERAL, CLAIMS SIMONOV, HAS BEEN ABLE TO RESTORE AMERICAN PRESTIGE IN THE WAKE OF VIETNAM AND WATERGATE, OR TO "WIPE AWAY THE BLOOD AND TEARS OF THOSE WHO FELL VICTIM TO THE AMERICAN SECRET SERVICES BOTH WITHIN THE COUNTRY AND ABROAD." TRYING TO RECOUP, THE USG REORGANIZED USIA OUT OF EXISTENCE AND "FROM THE OLD BLOCKS SEEMINGLY TRIED TO BUILD A HIGHER WALL, INTENDED TO STEM THE TIDE OF INFECTIOUS IDEAS FROM THE EAST."

4. HOWEVER, THE AUTHOR CONTENTS, WASHINGTON HAS BEEN UNABLE TO DECIDE EXACTLY WHAT TO DO WITH THE VOICE, WHOSE MISSION ALLEGEDLY HAS ALWAYS INVOLVED THE "MAJOR STRATEGIC GOAL" OF COMBATTING SOCIALIST IDEOLOGY, SABOTAGING LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, AND "UNDERMINING INTERNATIONAL DETENT". PROPONENTS OF INDEPENDENCE FOR THE VOICE ARE SAID TO CAST ENVIOUS GLANCES AT "THEIR MUNICH TWINS" - RFE AND RL.  
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5. SIMONOV GOES ON: "IN BREATHLESS ANTICIPATION OF A NEW STATUS, THE RADIO STATION HAS REGULARLY TRIED OUT AN 'INDEPENDENT SOUND', REMINDING ONE OF THE GUTTER PRESS. 'JUDGING BY THE AMOUNT OF PROGRAMMING DEVOTED TO DISSIDENTS,' ONE WASHINGTON NEWSPAPER NOTED WITH IRONY, 'IT'S DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE GOVERNMENTS OF EASTERN EUROPE ARE STILL IN POWER.'"

6. THE ARTICLE WINDS UP WITH THE FOLLOWING CHARGE, WHICH IS VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO SENTIMENTS NORMALLY RESERVED FOR RL AND RFE: "TO ONE OF THE FORMER LEADERS OF THE RADIO STATION BELONGS THE WINGED PHRASE: 'THE VOICE OF AMERICA SPEAKS IN MANY LANGUAGES BUT WITH ONLY ONE VOICE.' IN RECENT TIMES THIS VOICE HAS MORE AND MORE OFTEN EMITTED 'SQUAWKS', LOSING ITSELF IN CRUDE FALSEHOODS IN THE SPIRIT OF 'PSYCHOLOGICAL WAR'." TOON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PROPAGANDA, RADIO BROADCASTING  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014